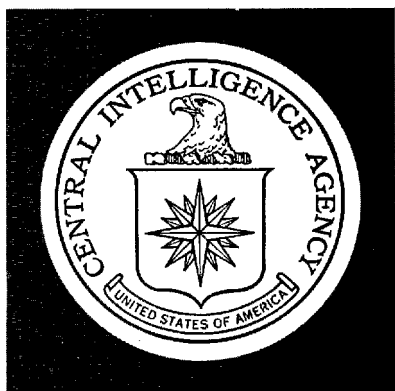


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[Portugal]: Prime Minister Salazar suffered a relapse yesterday and is reported to be in serious condition.

President Thomaz has the constitutional responsibility of appointing a new prime minister. He may now be faced, however, with making a decision without being able to consult the stricken prime minister, as he had reportedly intended to do. In selecting a new prime minister, Thomaz, as a loyal Salazar man, would be expected to consult with the major power groups supporting the regime, particularly the military, but also the business oligarchy, the bureaucracy, and to a lesser extent, the church.

[] the government will not name a successor as long as Salazar remains alive. Antonio da Mota Veiga, the present minister of state, has been carrying out the duties of the prime minister. The next prime minister may well be a transitional one who could carry on for a period until a consensus could be reached on a permanent successor. Marcelo Caetano, former minister of the presidency, is most frequently cited as such a transitional figure.

Caetano could also become the permanent successor to Salazar. Other possibilities for a permanent successor include former minister of justice Joao de Matos Antunes Varela; the ambitious ex-minister of overseas Adriano Moreira; businessman Antonio Carvalho Fernandes, former secretary of state for industry; and the minister of foreign affairs, Alberto Franco Nogueira.

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